

Message Text

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44

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-09

H-02 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 NIC-01

OIC-04 RSR-01 /138 W

----- 054734

R 290921 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3426

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 3572

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ELAB, IN

SUBJECT: CITU ALLEGATION OF VIOLATION BY GOI OF ILO CONVENTION 87.

BEGIN SUMMARY. SECRETARY OF CPM CONTROLLED CITU HAS CITED EXCERPTS FROM ILO REPORT TO CLAIM GOI VIOLATING TRADE UNION RIGHTS. ILO LETTER TO GOI STATES " ALLEGATIONS DO NOT CALL FOR FURTHER EXAMINATION." ACTION REQUESTED: COPY OF 135 TH REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION AND RELATED DOCUMENTS. END SUMMARY.

1. IN A PRESS CONFERENCE ON MARCH 26, MR. NIREN GHOSH, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, AND SECRETARY OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA- MARXIST (CPM) CONTROLLED CENTRE OF INDIA TRADE UNIONS (CITU) QUOTED THE FOLLOWING FROM A LETTER BY THE ILO TO THE GOI WHICH WAS HEADLINED IN THE LOCAL PRESS, " I. L. O. BODY'S CONCERN AT ATTACKS ON CITU UNIONS":

" THE SITUATION INVOLVING THE LARGE NUMBERS OF UNIONS

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AFFILIATED TO THE COMPLAINANT ORGANIZATIONS WAS OF A SUFFICIENTLY SERIOUS NATURE INVOLVING NOT ONLY PHYSICAL VIOLENCE AND DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY, BUT ALSO THE SEVERE RESTRICTION OF THE FREE EXERCISE OF TRADE UNION RIGHTS, AS TO WARRANT STRINGENT MEASURES BEING TAKEN BY THE AUTHORITIES TO RESTORE A NORMAL SITUATION... ALTHOUGH THE AUTHORITIES WERE AWARE OF THE FREQUENCY AND GRAVITY OF THE ATTACKS ON MEMBERS OF CITU- AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS, OR THE PROPERTY OF THEY ORGANIZATIONS, INTERVENTION ON THE PART OF THE AUTHROITIES WERE OFTEN INADEQUATE TO ENSURE PROTECTION OF TRADE UNION RIGHTS."

2. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED PRIVATELY FROM ILO AREA OFFICE (NEW DELHI) WHICH IS TREATING THE LETTER AS " PRIVILEGED" THAT REMAINDER OF LETTER IS THAT (ILO WISHES)

"(I) TO DRAW THE ATTENTION OF THE GOVERNMENT TO THE CONSIDERATIONS SET FORTH IN PARAGRAPHS 63, 65 AND 66;

"(II) TO NOTE THAT THERE HAS BEEN A GENERAL IMPROVEMENT IN THE SITUATION AND THAT IN SOME CASES OUTSTANDING GRIEVANCES ARE BEING INVESTIGATED BY THE POLICE AND ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITIES, OTHER CASES HAVE BEEN REFERRED TO CONCILIATION OR TO INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNALS FOR SETTLEMENT; AND

"(III)(DECIDED), SUBJECT TO THE CONSIDERATIONS SET OUT IN PARAS 63, 65 AND 66 ABOVE THAT THE ALLEGATIONS DO NOT CALL FOR FURTHER EXAMINATION."

3. THE QUOTATION USED BY THE CITU FROM THE ILO LETTER OF MARCH 9 IS TAKEN FROM PARAGRAPHS 63, 65 AND 66 OF THE 135 TH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION, AS APPROVED BY THE 189 TH SESSION OF THE ILO GOVERNING BODY.

COMMENT: DURING 1967-69 RULE BY THE CPM- CONTROLLED UNITED FRONT (UF)

GOVERNMENT IN WEST BENGAL, UNIONS BELONGING TO CONGRESS PARTY ORIENTED INDIAN NATIONAL TRADE UNION CONGRESS (INTUC), COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA (CPI) CONTROLLED ALL- INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS (AITUC) AND TO A LESSER DEGREE THE THEN SOCIALIST- ORIENTED HIND MAZDOOR SABHA (HMS) WERE IMPORTANT TARGETS OF VIOLENCE AND INTIMIDATION BY CPM CONTROLLED UNIONS, WITH BLOODSHED ON ALL SIDES. IN TURN, SINCE THE FALL OF THE CPM- CONTROLLED UF GOVERNMENT IN 1970 (FOLLOWED BY THE IMPOSITION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF PRESIDENT' S RULE, AND SUBSEQUENTLY A CONGRESS (R) ELECTION IN
MARCH 1972), THE CPM UNIONS HAVE BEEN THE TARGET OF ATTACKS BY
NON/ CPM UNIONS AND OF THE HOSTILITY OF CONGRESS (R) CONTROLLED AD-
MINISTRATION IN WEST BENGAL. CONGRESS (R) YOUTH GROUPS DURING
THE MARCH 1972 ELECTION CAMPAIGN FOR THE ASSEMBLY WERE
PARTICULARLY
ACTIVE IN STREET WAREFARE AGAINST CPM- CITY SUPPORTERS. THE CPM- CITU
PROTESTS TO THE PRIME MINISTER ABOUT LACK OF ADEQUATE PROTECTION
AND
ALLEGATIONS OF POLICE COMPLICITY IN THIS VIOLENCE, APPARENTLY DREW
LITTLE OR NOT SYMPATHY FROM HER - A STAND IN ACCORD WITH HER PUBLIC
DENUNCIATION OF TH
E E E E E E E

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TAGS: ELAB, IN
To: IO
SECSTATE WASHDC INFO BOMBAY
CALCUTTA
EC BRUSSELS
GENEVA
MADRAS
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